

Appl. No.: 09/934,300
Amdt. dated 11/17/2005
Supplemental Reply to Office action of July 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

- 1-11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a solution of a chemically modified hemoglobin ~~solution~~ that is substantially free of contaminants comprising:
- (a) dissolving an activated polyethylene glycol (aPEG) in a solvent suitable for addition to a hemoglobin solution and in which said aPEG is stable;
 - (b) filtering said dissolved aPEG through at least one filter which substantially reduces the levels of contaminants in the resulting filtered aPEG solution; and,
 - (c) combining said resulting filtered aPEG solution of step (b) with a hemoglobin solution.
13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the aPEG is polyoxyethylene (POE).
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the solvent is ~~selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, and acetonitrile.~~
15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one filter substantially reduces endotoxin contaminant levels in the filtered aPEG solution.
16. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said at least one filter reduces endotoxin contaminant levels in the filtered aPEG solution by at least 500 EU/cm² of filter area.
17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said at least one filter comprises a 0.2 micron nylon filter.

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18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the hemoglobin solution comprises pyridoxylated stroma-free hemoglobin.

19. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said filtering and said combining are aseptically joined.